

**Minutes of the Personnel Committee  
Tuesday, June 5, 2007**

Chair Paulson called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

Present: Supervisors Duane Paulson (Chair), Bob Thelen, Pete Gundrum, Tom Schellinger and Fritz Ruf. Absent: Supervisors Tom Bullermann, Joe Vitale. Supervisor Gundrum arrived at 1:16 p.m.

Also Present: Legislative Policy Advisor Mark Mader, County Board Supervisor Rodell Singert, Labor Relations Manager Jim Richter, Office Services Coordinator Windy Jicha, Freeman Reporter Joe Petrie.

**Approve Minutes of May 15, 2007**

MOTION: Ruf moved, Schellinger second, to approve the minutes of May 15, 2007. Motion carried 4-0.

**Schedule Next Meeting Dates**

- June 19
- July 17

**Chair's Executive Committee Report of June 4, 2007**

Paulson advised the following issues were discussed at the June 4, 2007 Executive Committee meeting:

- Adolescent and Family Services Division Audit
- County board supervisors participation on RFP evaluation committees
- Ordinance 162-O-013: Amend the Waukesha County Code to Establish Benefits for the County Board Chairperson on a Regular Part Time Basis
- Appointment of Jayne Thoma to the Ethics Board (162-A-001).

**Ordinance 162-O-013: Amend the Waukesha County Code to Establish Benefits for the County Board Chairperson on a Regular Part Time Basis**

MOTION: Ruf moved, Schellinger second, to approve Ordinance 162-O-013.

Singert said he is happy to be at the meeting presenting this ordinance which is in the best interest of government and straightforward. This ordinance should have been presented with Ordinance 162-O-007 (Establish Salary for County Board Supervisor). The Executive Committee argued that Ordinance 162-O-013 is a mute issue because the board voted against 162-O-007. All aspects of government should be reviewed when downsizing to make it more efficient and accountable. Ordinance 162-O-013 reflects such an issue. The board should be on record opposing changes to benefits. The fiscal note explains the reductions in cost.

Singert said he has a copy of a Wall Street Journal Article talking about government downsizing in Pennsylvania and how government needs to be held accountable. This topic is not mute. He is proud to bring the ordinance forward and is convinced it is the right thing to do.

Supervisor Gundrum arrived at 1:16 p.m.

Paulson read an email sent to the committee by Supervisor Joe Vitale (June 4, 2007 at 9:50 a.m.) who was unable to attend the meeting due to health reasons.

*“I support Ordinance 162-O-013 in that it be allowed to go forward to the full board. I support that as a right of a supervisor to put forth such ordinances.*

*Be it further known that at the County Board Meeting I shall express profound disagreement with this ordinance. Along with a legislator’s right to submit ordinances it is also the responsibility of any legislator to put forth meaning causes for the good of the county. It is my feeling that this is the third superfluous ordinance put forth which has no good government impact whatsoever. It now takes on the appearance of a vendetta or as I have expressed in the past ‘political mouth wash’. It takes \$484,000 to reduce the levy by \$0.01.*

*To say the least this ordinance will not receive my support as is my right and responsibility as a legislator to support meaningful productive actions.”*

Schellinger said no one is against government being accountable. How does this ordinance make better government? Singert said in a county executive form of government, the county board chair should not be full time. Schellinger asked how does this ordinance protect the county taxpayer? The county board chair is an excellent full time position. It is an insurance policy for citizens to oversee government activities. He does not see how changing this to part time benefits citizens.

Gundrum said in Schellinger’s opinion, it would be good to double the size of government for oversight purposes. Families work hard to make ends meet and government keeps taking a slice of it. Families will suffer trying to make ends meet if government doesn’t reduce spending.

Schellinger said we haven’t been growing. The board just voted to downsize from 35 to 25 members. Cutting this position to part time doesn’t serve the taxpayer because the position watches over government. Schellinger asked Singert to list provide reasons why benefits should be cut from this position.

Singert said he understands the current system and how changes could make it more efficient. Executive Committee members were given a list of what the current county board chair does. It isn’t evidence of justification. It is reasonable to have a part time board chair.

Gundrum asked does the county have a legal responsibility to provide benefits to full time employees? Paulson said this ordinance changes the county code to exclude one FTE in the county from receiving benefits. The county clerk, sheriff, county executive, etc. get these benefits. Richter said there are certain statutory benefits the county has to provide to full time employees such as pension and worker’s compensation. Health insurance is voluntary.

Singert said all the other positions are elected by the public.

Thelen said the Personnel Committee discussed salary increases for elected officials (sheriff, county clerk, clerk of courts, etc.) a year ago. Why didn’t Singert recommend benefit changes at that time? He may have voted for changes at that time.

Singert said because of downsizing last year, the county code needs to be revised. No arena was provided for the board to discuss changes to the county code. Code changes were discussed at several

6/05/07

Executive Committee meetings. He researched the code and deemed this idea/principle important enough for an ordinance.

Ruf said he sees a need to reduce government especially at the state and federal level. He's concerned about making changes to the county board chair position at this time. It would be prudent to wait until the newly formed 25-member board has an opportunity to function and see the implications of the new system.

Gundrum said this ordinance only takes benefits away from the county board chair. No other elected positions are affected. It is not fair to single out the county board chair.

Schellinger asked why does Singert want benefits taken from the county board chair only and not the other elected officials? Singert said upon reviewing the county code he believes certain changes should occur with county board downsizing in coordination with a county executive form of government.

Motion defeated 5-0.

### **Closed Session**

MOTION: Ruf moved, Thelen second, to go into closed session at 1:38 p.m. in accordance with Section 19.85 (1)(e) Wis. Stats. for the purpose of discussing collective bargaining issues, and to approve the closed session minutes of previous meeting(s). Motion carried 5-0.

MOTION: Gundrum moved, Ruf second, to return to open session at 2:47 p.m. Motion carried 5-0.

MOTION: Gundrum moved, Schellinger second, to adjourn at 2:47 p.m. Motion carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved on: \_\_\_\_\_

Robert G. Thelen II  
Secretary